

## Students help plant trees



By Linda Schneider  
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On April 14, Cheylin's fourth grade class traveled to McDonald to help celebrate Arbor Day with the McDonald Town and Country Garden Club plant a "Fat Albert Spruce" tree in Highway 36 Roadside Park.

The first year a tree was planted was in 1960, a Blue Spruce in Helen Frisbie's yard. Since then, they have been planted in various places throughout McDonald.

Tammi Carmichael, teacher, has been taking her fourth grade classes to participate in the Arbor Day planting for approximately 5 years. In the past, the students presented a program in the McDonald Senior Center, as well as received recognition for their conservation posters.

Over 20 guests and club members attended the tree planting. Among the guests were Bud Frisbie, Lois Morelock, Eleanor Swihart; the digger of tree hole, Bruce Nichols, and McDonald Mayor Norm Davis.

The weather was favorable for the traditional planting of the tree and when the tree was planted, the students and visitors went to the

Senior Center for continue with the program.

The students entertained the group with songs, jokes and a lively play about an old woman and her singing tulips.

Guest speaker, Jim Strine, district forester, gave a presentation about "Tree Wisdom." Mr. Strine asked the students if they knew what the name of Kansas' largest tree was, and he explained that the state tree the Cottonwood was the largest tree grown in the state. In addition, the biggest tree is currently growing in Hoxie and is 10 feet in diameter.

He continued with more tree wisdom by telling the students the oldest tree known is the Bristle Cone in California, 4,400 years old. And the largest growing trees are the California Giant Red Woods with a diameter of 35 feet.

Garden Club members, Margie Hubbard, president; Marlene Johnson, treasurer; Kay Miller, secretary; Diane Montgomery, Ratha Lee Loker, Helen Frisbie, Joan Tongish, Betty Knapp, LaVine Waters, and Betty Binning were all present and provided refreshments for the guests at the end of the program.



CHEYLIN FOURTH GRADE CLASS helped the McDonald Town and County Gardent Club plant a tree for Arbor Day. Kneeling left to right is Dominique Johnston, Manuel Castello, Amber Manners, Yudity Benitez, and Jim Strine. Standing left to right is Rachel Keltz, Jordan Janicke, Michele Lucy, Serena Lee and Alex Hazuka. Not pictured are fourth grade students Tasha Ritchey and Isaac Rosales.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Alumni banquet planned for May 29

The Bird City Rural High School Alumni Banquet is getting close. Ken Voorhies, Alumni Committee member, said that making plans for the banquet is like trying to shoot a moving target.

"But we are pleased with the progress so far, and the parts and pieces are slowly coming together," he said.

The theme for this year's banquet is "2010-The Year of the Cardinal." The program will be kicking off with the focus on rescuing the history of Bird City Rural High School before it is lost forever.

The honored classes this year have been amended to include 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, and 1975. Kent Chapman, class of 1960, will emcee the banquet and a musical group has been contracted to entertain part of the banquet program.

The banquet is Saturday, May 29, at 6 p.m. in the American Legion Hall, Bird City. For more information about this upcoming event, contact First National Bank at 785-734-2100, or by mail, First National Bank, PO Box 40, Bird City, KS 67731.

## Deadline ends April 30

Angie Berens, County Executive Director of Cheyenne's Farm Service Agency reminds Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants of the burning period deadline of April 30.

"We have tried to send reminder letters to all Conservation Reserve Program producers reminding them of required management and maintenance items, and many require

a burning," said Mrs. Berens. "Of course, the best scenario is to complete the prescribed burns on days having optimal burning conditions. Hopefully there will be a few more of those before the April 30 deadline."

If you have any questions, please contact the US Department of Agriculture Service Center at 785-332-2183.



CHEYLIN FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS presented a play after planting the Arbor Day tree in McDonald. Rachel Keltz (right) acts the role of an Old Woman who grows a garden of singing tulips.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Students receive commendations from board members

By Linda Schneider  
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The Board of Education April meeting opened with Emily Bolen, English Language Learner/Migrant director, updating members on information and services on both programs (see story page 6).

After the members visit the English Language Learner classroom, the members proceeded with the business at hand.

### Commendations

The board formally commended the following students to the Western Kansas Liberty League Basketball selections, Caleb Keltz, all-league; Adrian Garcia, honorable mention; Naomi Reeh, honorable mention, and Teryn Carmichael, honorable mention.

Superintendent Bruce Bolen mentioned that the students were not present to receive their commendation because two of them are seniors and were leaving for their senior field trip the next day at 5:30 a.m.

### Membership dues and fees

The board members approved payment of the 2010-2011 membership dues to the Kansas Association of School Boards for \$2,881.



Keltz



Garcia



Reeh



Carmichael

The members also approved \$1,400 for the 2010-2011 Legal Assistance Fund Membership to the Kansas Association of School Boards.

"This also includes them being available for Monday night board meetings," said Superintendent Bolen. "And if they cannot attend, they will participate in a conference call."

The board approved the donation of \$240, \$20 per student, to the Bird City Golf Course.

### Cheylin first grade teacher

Before the board approved the hire of Ranae Suter, first grade teacher for the school year 2010-2011, Superintendent Bolen informed the members that he has not received all of Ms. Suter's transcripts and licenses.

He added that he felt he needs to get that information before he

sends a contract to her. However, he asked that the members would approve hiring Ms. Suter contingent on receiving all the documentation. The board agreed to hire Ms. Suter, pending the receipt of transcripts.

### Elected to advisory council

Superintendent Bolen informed the board that he has been elected to the Kansas State High School Activities Association advisory council.

He said that by him being on the advisory council, he would be able to vote on issues that were important to Cheylin.

One of the issues he discussed that he would favorably vote for, if the board agreed on saving money by decreasing the number of sports events. A couple of examples would be reducing the number of basketball games from

20 to 16 and football nine games to seven games.

### Student day off

Last month the board approved giving April 26 as a day off for Cheylin students because of the outstanding test results for the 2008-2009 Kansas Adequate Yearly Progress Assessment tests.

Superintendent Bolen said there was concern expressed from some of the teaching staff over losing a day's pay. Motion carried 6 to 1 to pay the staff as well as the para professionals.

### Text Caster

Sign up for training will begin soon for parents and students to receive school information, sport changes, school closings, and items of general interest in an email or telephone text. This is a program sponsored by the school, fertilizer/agriculture coop Kansas; Dale Hazuka, board member, is the local company representative.

### Gift donation

Motion carried to accept a \$150 gift from Cort Antholz, Channel Seed dealer, to use toward paying admissions for the fourth through sixth grade field trip scheduled Thursday, April 22, to the Kansas Underground Salt Museum in

Hutchinson.

### Music competition

Following the Regional Music Festival competition in Oberlin on March 27, six students will be traveling to Wichita for the State Music Festival on April 24.

The students going are Stephanie Busse, Noah Jones, Naomi Reeh, Grant Shrader, and Heath Antholz.

### Testing audit

Superintendent Bolen said that in the recent assessment tests it was a stressful time for both students and teaching staff. However during the one day of testing was proctored by state officials and received high compliments on being well-organized and carrying out the highest levels of securities.

"I was told that if every school in the state did as well as Cheylin in testing, there would not be any educational testing problems," Superintendent Bolen said.

He added that most of the credit for the success was due to Anita Burton, Cheylin counselor; and Emily Bolen, migrant/English language learner director, for compiling all the proper documentation needed and test scheduling.

### Power School

Superintendent Bolen reported

to the member that he and Loretta Rucker, Cheylin secretary, attended a Power School conference in Junction City on April 12.

Superintendent Bolen said that it was an informative conference; however, he said he was a little disappointed from his perspective that the conference did not really teach him what he wanted to learn.

He continued that Power School was a powerful program but not user friendly in his opinion. He said reports are not easy to get unless the user is familiar with hyper text markup language (html) computer programming.

"I did learn how to enter all the students' Kansas assessment scores," he said.

### Miscellaneous items

Other topics discussed were:

- The transportation bus, "Moby" steering box is done and center power next week. Cost was approximately \$1,000.

- Stop watches have been purchased for track meets.
- Seniors leave on their trip on Friday.

- Summer repair and maintenance projects were discussed.

- A retirement party was planned for Sharon Hendricks, kindergarten teacher.



